GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:172
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2000
MISSING OF AMMUNITION WAGON
RAM JEEVAN SINGH;RAMCHANDRA PASWAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wagon load of high calibre ammunition despatched by the Jabalpur Ordnance Factory and meantfor the Naval Armament Depot, Uran, remained undetected in a railway yard of North Mumbai suburb for more than two years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 172 FOR 30.11.2000

A wagon loaded with high caliber ammunition was dispatched by Ordnance Factory, Khamaria atJabalpur to Naval Armament Depot (NAD), Karanja on 1-12-1997. On non- receipt of consignment, NAD, Karanja took up the issueof non-receipt of the consignment with the Chief Commercial Superintendent, Central Railway on 18-5-1998.On receipt of information, Ordnance Factory, Khamaria also took up the matter with appropriate Railway authorities and a continuous follow up was made to trace the wagon. The wagon in question was finally received at NAD, Karanjaon 7-9-2000. The marking on the wagon appeared to have been smudged owing to rain. The consignment was intact and there was no tampering. Its value was Rs. 14.29 lakhs.

After this singular incident, a system has been introduced by which the consignor also keeps track of the wagon till it's receipt at consignee's end. However, an inquiry has also been ordered to fix responsibility.